

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 STR-04 FEA-01 AGRE-00 CEA-01  
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05  
L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 AID-05 SS-15  
ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 IO-13  
IGA-02 XMB-04 /111 W  
-----021733Z 026809 /41

R 011621Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4201

UNCLAS MONROVIA 2230

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ETRD, LI  
SUBJECT: GSP: FIRST YEAR REVIEW

REF: STATE 67507

1. IN RESPONSE TO GENERAL QUESTIONS POSED IN REFTEL, MEETING HELD  
WITH  
DIRECTOR OF FOREIGN TRADE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND TRANS-  
PORTATION. FEELING OF DIRECTOR THAT GSP PROGRAM TOO YOUNG AND  
STATISTICAL EVIDENCE TOO SKETCHY TO MAKE DEFINITIVE JUDGEMENTS OF NET  
ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF GSP IN LIBERIA. HOWEVER, INFORMATION IN FOLLOWING  
PARAGRAPHS WAS OFFERED BY DIRECTOR ON BASIS OF PRELIMINARY DATA AND  
EXPERIENCE, AND PERSONAL UNDERSTANDING OF EXPORTERS' MOTIVATION.

2. DIRECTOR EXPRESSED OPINION THAT GSP IS DEFINITELY BENEFICIAL TO  
LIBERIA, BUT DIFFICULT TO QUANTIFY AT THIS STAGE. STATISTICAL EXPORT  
DATA FOR 1976 WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE FOR SEVERAL MONTHS, AND, EVEN  
THEN, WILL CALL FOR CONSIDERABLE ANALYSIS TO DETERMINE IF GSP HAD  
SIGNIFICANT IMPACT. CANNOT BE DETERMINED AT THIS POINT IF LIBERIAN  
EXPORTS TO U.S. HAVE INCREASED.

3. NEW INVESTMENTS ARE BEING PLANNED OR ARE UNDER WAY WHICH  
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CAN TAKE ADVANTAGE OF GSP. CLEAR EXAMPLES ARE THOSE WITHIN  
THE TIMBER PRODUCTS INDUSTRY WHICH IS OF GROWING IMPORTANCE TO  
LIBERIAN ECONOMY. AGAIN, HOWEVER, WHAT FACTOR GSP PLAYED  
DURING INVESTMENT DECISION-MAKING PROCESS IS NOT KNOWN. IT  
WAS EXPRESSED THAT GSP ALONE COULD PROBABLY NOT BE CONSIDERED  
A DETERMINING FACTOR IN PROMPTING NEW INVESTMENT, BUT IS  
DEFINITELY AN ENCOURAGEMENT.

4. PRELIMINARY DATA DO NOT SUGGEST THAT ANY SIGNIFICANT VOLUME OF "NON-TRADITIONAL" PRODUCTS EXPORTED AS A RESULT OF GSP.

5. GOL SPONSORED SEMINAR IN LATE 1976 TO EXPLAIN AND PROMOTE ADVANTAGE OF GSP TO BUSINESS COMMUNITY. CONCEPT APPARENTLY WIDELY UNDERSTOOD AND ACCEPTED AMONG LIBERIAN FIRMS AND CONCESSIONS, AND QUESTIONS CENTERED ON TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF PAPER WORK INVOLVED, GOL RECENTLY EXPERIENCED DIFFICULTY WITH ACCEPTABILITY OF THEIR LOCALLY PRINTED GSP CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN FORM A, BUT PROBLEM RESOLVED THROUGH ASSISTANCE OF EMBASSY COMMERCIAL SECTION.

6. EFFECT WHICH GSP HAS HAD IN TRADE PATTERNS BETWEEN U.S. AND LIBERIA IS IMPOSSIBLE TO ASSESS WITHOUT STATISTICAL DATA, BUT NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGES SENSED BY GOL DIRECTOR OF FOREIGN TRADE.

7. DIRECTOR NOTED THAT SINCE EEC COUNTRIES IN TOTAL IMPORT A LARGER SHARE OF LIBERIA'S PRODUCT THAN DOES U.S., LOME AGREEMENT PROBABLY HAS GREATER SIGNIFICANCE FOR LIBERIA THAN DOES GSP. CLOSER SCRUTINY OF INDIVIDUAL TRADE PATTERNS AND TRENDS AND PRODUCT SHIPMENTS NECESSARY TO DETERMINE RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF TRADE CONCESSIONS FOR LIBERIA.

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** ETRD, LI  
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